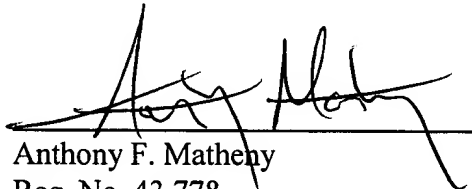


To Applicant's knowledge, a first Office Action on the merits has not been mailed by the Examiner. Accordingly, this Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement should be considered in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3).

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(g) and (h), this Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or an admission that the information cited herein is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a). The submission of the following information should not necessarily be deemed a concession that any particular item constitutes "prior art" to the claimed invention.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/4/01



Anthony F. Matheny
Reg. No. 43,778
Andrews & Kurth L.L.P.
600 Travis, Suite 4200
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 220-4168
(713) 238-7260 (fax)

Attorney for Assignee